

Open Call: Palmer Park Detroit Exploration and Nature Center (DEN) Mural Project
Deadline to apply: August 14, 2021

City Walls Detroit together with the Detroit Exploration and Nature (DEN) Center is seeking an artist (or collaborative teams) to create a new mural on the DEN's one story building. The DEN is located in District 2 within Palmer Park, at the corner of Woodward and 7 Mile. It is adjacent to and visible from Woodward Ave, near a bus station and MOGO bike unit. The building promotes connections to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities, as well as hosts a weekly summer Farmers Market. The Palmer Park DEN houses Detroit Outdoors' Office (the collaborative effort that runs Detroit's urban camping program), contains a Wayne State Research laboratory, hosts public events like nature walks, bonfires and archery, as well as serves as the site for summer youth employment programs and summer day camps. The building has a "bird-safe" window treatment to prevent window collisions from migrating songbirds and is surrounded by a variety of habitats such as forested areas, a bird meadow and pond. Habitat restoration is happening in the forest and pond at Palmer Park and we'd love to highlight these efforts with beautiful and vibrant artwork.

This project will be executed in the service of promoting the City of Detroit as a vibrant community, especially in terms of the ecological communities within the city. The number one principle of the City Walls program is that the artwork that is created represents the values and identity of the community it is created with and this project is no exception.

The City of Detroit has a vision for neighbors to feel connected to each other, take shared responsibility for their neighborhoods, feel empowered to make a change in their environment, and envision a positive future for themselves, the built environment, and their children. The commission is being managed by City Walls Detroit in conjunction with the Palmer Park DEN. The goal of the mural is to highlight the natural features found within Detroit and people's past and present relationship to these spaces. The mural should particularly focus on the flora and fauna found in Palmer Park, including but not limited to, native plants and their pollinators, fungi, insects, birds, amphibians and mammals in parks, and people's past and present relationship to these beings and this place. The human element can be added as well which could include the history of land use in this space and/or folks performing a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Goals of the DEN Mural Project:

- Give visibility to the DEN as a community, research and nature-based hub
- Artwork highlights the flora and fauna of Detroit, especially the native plants and animals.
- Residents feel connected to the artwork that is created
- Artwork that reflects the values and identity of the community
- Create a safe and welcoming space
- Create a vibrant public space
- Ideally have species from all the food-web levels such as decomposers (ie:mushrooms), producers (plants), herbivores (deer) and consumers (fox)
- Images be relatively realistic, or at least identifiable
- Having different seasons and the animals/activities
- Honor the stewards of the space, especially in terms of the indigenous relationships to the land we are on and the significance of a Black golf course for many neighbors

VISION STATEMENT from DEN

The DEN nurtures curiosity and care for the outdoors. Our goal is to provide public programs where people feel welcomed, safe and informed as they explore and build meaningful connections to Detroit's nature and wildlife. The DEN houses the Detroit Outdoors offices whose mission is to "Foster connections between youth, community and nature through leadership training, gear libraries and access to campgrounds in Detroit."

The Project

City Walls Detroit has worked with the DEN Staff to identify the walls within the larger context of the new construction.

Project Location Scope

See Attached Exhibits

Project Schedule

July 1, 2021: CTA Released

July 14, 2021: Deadline for Questions

August 14, 2021: CTA Closes

August 21, 2021: Artist/Artist Team Announced

September 1, 2021: Final Presentations

September 14, 2021: Art Production

Artist Scope of Work

Artist/Artist Team Responsibilities:

The selected artist/artist team will be required to work in collaboration with the City of Detroit. Artist/artist teams should be prepared to share their personal practice with the community as this is inherently a group project.

Artist/artist teams are responsible for:

Conducting research to better understand the site, the project, the community's history and current culture, along with any other elements deemed helpful to their creative process

Develop concepts and renderings of mural for the project site

Present concepts and refinements

Create a final approved concept and design for the mural

For any art component, identify and secure the services of suppliers, fabricators, installers, and other professional as necessary to fulfill the artist's responsibilities in the production and completion of the work

Fulfill the responsibilities within the contracted budget and timeline

Incorporate Youth Involvement

Participate in an unveiling and a community Artists Talk with short Q&A

City Walls Detroit responsibilities:

Coordinate reviews and permissions in regard to artist selection and concept development

Coordinate marketing, documentation, and public engagement

Budget

The overall budget: **\$15,000**

This budget is all-inclusive, including but not limited to artist's fees, artist's assistant costs, artist's studio costs, materials and supplies, specified consultants, community engagement participation, and installation of all artwork.

Artist Selection Process**Eligibility**

We are seeking artists or artist teams who can make a commitment to working in Detroit as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this project.

Any artist or artist team is encouraged to apply.

Process

This will be an open call. Qualifications, portfolios, and statements will be solicited by City Walls Detroit. City Walls Detroit and its selection panel will review the artist submission and identify one artist/artist team per project to be selected for the project.

Selection Criteria

Awarded artist/artist team will be selected based on the selection panel's evaluation of the following criteria:

- 25pts Experience in community engaged art process and research
- 20pts Experience in creating permanent, durable, outdoor public artwork
- 20pts Ability to accomplish projects of a similar complexity within the budget, timeline, and technical constraints presented, based on examples of prior works
- 15pts Artist Statement
- 10pts Detroit Based Artist
- 10pts Preliminary Sketches

Selection panel consists of 1 member from each category below:

- Department of Neighborhoods
- Palmer Park DEN
- City Walls
- Community Member - Bruce Ross
- Community Member - People for Palmer Park Representative
- Community Member – Youth Member of Palmer Park DEN
- User Group of Space - Detroit Outdoors
- Arts Professional in District 3

Application**Submission Requirements:**

Interested artist/artist team should submit:

A project brief table of contents page including an artist statement, the names and contact information for the artist/artist team that includes all material that is being submitted (1 page per project)

A CV or resume for each artist (1 page per artist), Include 2 references of previous public art clients

Complete the online form

Up to 3 images of past work you consider relevant to this project (Digital images must be JPEG files and must be no more than 300dpi and no larger than 1024x768 pixel resolution. Each image must be unlocked and downloadable for viewing)

Each JPEG image must be titled with the artist's name and image number. Example:
SaraSmith001, SaraSmith002.)
Up to 2 images of preliminary sketches

Submission Instructions

A link to the Submission form can be found electronically at this web address:
detroitmi.gov/citywalls/calltoarts
Questions can be submitted to citywalls@detroitmi.gov





